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ARIZONA STATE VETERINARY MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD

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VETBOARD.AZ.GOV

INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION REPORT

TO: Arizona State Veterinary Medical Examining Board

FROM: Investigative Division

RE: Case: 20-64

Complainant(s): Arizona State Veterinary Medical Examining Board

Respondent(s): Paul Pullen, D.V.M. (License: 0989)

SUMMARY:

Complaint Received at Board Office: 1/15/20

Board Discussion: 2/19/20

APPLICABLE STATUTES AND RULES:

Laws as Amended August 2018
(Lime Green); Rules as Revised
September 2013 (Yellow)

On January 15, 2020, the Board voted to open an investigation regarding Respondent's possible unprofessional conduct. The Board expressed concerns Respondent made statements with respect to the care and treatment provided to "Frisky," a 10 ½ year-old female spayed Pit bull owned by Lizeta Clark by Dr. Gammill and Dr. Wells in cases 20-10 and 20-11.

PROPOSED 'FINDINGS of FACT':

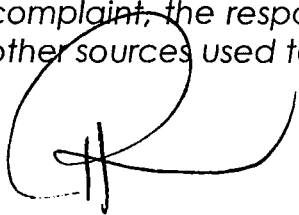
1. On January 15, 2020, Arizona Veterinary Medical Examining Board Meeting, the Board opened an investigation regarding Respondent's possible unprofessional conduct. The Board expressed concerns with statements made with respect to the care and treatment provided to "Frisky," a 10 ½ year-old female spayed Pit bull owned by Lizeta Clark by Dr. Gammill and Dr. Wells in cases 20-10, In Re: William Gammill, DVM and 20-11, In Re: Rick Wells, DVM. The Board was concerned Respondent's comments were made without the benefit of reviewing medical records of the dog's exam and treatment provided by Dr. Gammill and Dr. Wells, or without seeing the condition of the dog's mouth two months earlier.

2. In Respondent's letter to the Board for cases 20-10 and 20-11 he stated that in his opinion, Dr. Gammill and Dr. Wells tried to repair something that should have gone to a Board Certified Dental Specialist. The tumor area was not healing and maybe spreading into surrounding tissues. He was sure that none of the ABC veterinarians would attempt to fix this problem and then recommended a referral to a Board Certified Oncologist or Dentist.

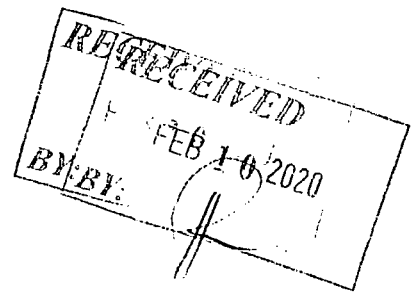
3. On February 10, 2020, Respondent responded to the case the Board opened regarding his comments in case 20-10 and 20-11. Respondent stated that at no time did he accuse Dr. Gammill or Dr. Wells of malpractice. He did not even know their names or the premises they practiced. He only saw that the dog's mouth was not healing well on the day it presented; he had no records or lab tests to refer to.

4. Respondent stated Complainant wanted to know how to pursue the dog's issues and asked Respondent repeated questions. He recommended Complainant get a copy of the dog's medical records and lab reports and go to a specialist. Respondent stated that he did not tell Complainant that the veterinarians committed malpractice.

The information contained in this report was obtained from the case file, which includes the complaint, the respondent's response, any consulting veterinarian or witness input, and any other sources used to gather information for the investigation.



Tracy A. Riendeau, CVT
Investigative Division



1/06/2020

State Board:

I am writing this letter regarding statements I made regarding the treatment of Frisky, a 10 ½ year old Pitbull owned by Liz Clark, presented for exam and possible treatment at ABC Pet Clinic on 11/27/2018.

At no time did I accuse Dr. Wells or Dr. Gammill of malpractice. I did not even know their names or the clinic where they practiced. The only thing I saw was that the mouth was not healing well at all on the day. I had no records or lab tests to refer to. I have no way to benefit from any of this. I do not own ABC clinic, work in the same city or even know these veterinarians.

Ms. Clark wanted to know how to pursue this matter and asked me repeated questions. I told her to get her records and lab reports and go to a board certified specialist and that the mouth was not healing right on the day I saw it. That is all. She was angry about a lot of things – the not healing, that our clinic did not have a dental x-ray machine and couldn't treat it at the time, the expense, and her lack of money. Mainly, she was very mad.

I did not state to Ms. Clark those veterinarians committed malpractice.

Sincerely,

Paul A. Pullen DVM

Paul S. Pullen D.V.M.